

PREPARATION OF SKINS. RIVER-BOATS.

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together for matting. Rude bowls and spoons are sometimes dug out of horn or wood, but the fingers, with pieces of bark and small mats are the ordinary table furniture. Skins are dressed by spreading, scraping off the flesh, and for some purposes the hair, with a sharp piece of bone, stone, or iron attached to a short handle, and used like an adze. The skin is then smeared with the animal's brains, and rubbed or pounded by a very tedious process till it becomes soft and white, some hides being previously smoked and bleached with white clay.¹⁷¹

On the lower Columbia the Wascos, Kliketats, Walla Walla, and other tribes use dug-out boats like those of the coast, except that little skill or labor is expended on their construction or ornamentation; the only requisite being supporting capacity, as is natural in a country where canoes play but a small part in the work of procuring food. Farther in the interior the mountain tribes of the Sahaptin family, as the Cayuses and Nez Percés, make no boats, but use rude rafts or purchase an occasional canoe from their neighbors, for the rare cases when it becomes necessary to transport property across an unfordable stream. The Flatheads sew up their lodge-skins into a temporary boat for the same purpose. On the Fraser the Nootka dug-out is in use. But on the northern lakes and rivers of the interior, the Pend d'Oreille, Flatbow, Arrow, and Okanagan, northward to the Ta-

¹⁷¹ White marl clay used to cleanse skin robes, by making it into a paste, rubbing it on the hide and leaving it to dry, after which it is rubbed off. Saddles usually sit uneasily on the horse's back. *Parker's Explor. Tour*, pp. 103, 232-4. 'Mallet of stone curiously carved' among the Sokulka. Near the Cascades was seen a ladder resembling those used by the whites. The Pishquips used 'a saddle or pad of dressed skin, stuffed with goats' hair.' *Lewis and Clarke's Trav.*, pp. 353, 370, 375, 528. On the Fraser a rough kind of isinglass was at one time prepared and traded to the Hudson Bay Company. *Lord's Nat.*, vol. i., p. 177. 'The Sahaptins still make a kind of vase of lava, somewhat in the shape of a crucible, but very wide; they use it as a mortar for pounding the grain, of which they make cakes.' *Domenech's Deserts*, vol. ii., pp. 64, 243. (Undoubtedly an error.) 'Pend d'Oreilles; 'les femmes font des nattes de joncs, des paniers, et des chapeaux sans bords.' *De Smet, Voy.*, p. 199. 'Nearly all (the Shushwaps) use the Spanish wooden saddle, which they make with much skill.' *Mayne's B. C.*, pp. 301-2. 'The saddles for women differ in form, being furnished with the antlers of a deer, so as to resemble the high pommel saddle of the Mexican ladies.' *Franchère's Nar.*, pp. 269-70; *Palmer's Jour.*, p. 129; *Irving's Astoria*, p. 317, 365; *Cox's Adven.*, vol. i., pp. 148-9.

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501 cully territory, the natives manufacture and navigate bark canoes. Both birch and pine are employed, by stretching it over a cedar hoop-work frame, sewing the ends with fine roots, and gumming the seams and knots. The form is very peculiar; the stem and stern are pointed, but the points are on a level with the bottom of the boat, and the slope or curve is upward towards the centre. Travelers describe them as carrying a heavy load, but easily capsized unless when very skillfully managed.¹⁷³

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556 Horses constitute the native wealth, and poor indeed is the family which has not for each member, young and old, an animal to ride, as well as others sufficient to transport all the household goods, and to trade for the few foreign articles needed. The Nez Percés, Cayuses and Walla Wallas have more and better stock than other nations, individuals often possessing bands of from one thousand to three thousand. The Kootenais are the most northern equestrian tribes mentioned. How the natives originally obtained horses is unknown, although [77] there are some slight traditions in support of the natural supposition that they were first introduced from the south by way of the Shoshones. The latter are one people with the Comanches, by whom horses were obtained during the Spanish expeditions to New Mexico in the sixteenth century. The horses of the natives are

501 ¹⁷² 'The white-pine bark is a very good substitute for birch, but has the disadvantage of being more brittle in cold weather.' *Suckley, in Pac. R. R. Rept., vol. i., p. 296.* Yakima boats are 'simply logs hollowed out and sloped up at the ends, without form or finish.' *Gibbs, in Id., p. 408.* The Flatheads 'have no canoes, but in ferrying streams use their lodge skins, which are drawn up into an oval form by cords, and stretched on a few twigs. These they tow with horses, riding sometimes three abreast.' *Stevens, in Id., p. 415.* In the Kootenai canoe 'the upper part is covered, except a space in the middle.' The length is twenty-two feet, the bottom being a dead level from end to end. *Ross' Fur Hunters, vol. ii., pp. 169-70.* 'The length of the bottom of the one I measured was twelve feet, the width between the gunwales only seven and one half feet.' 'When an Indian paddles it, he sits at the extreme end, and thus sinks the conical point, which serves to steady the canoe like a fish's tail.' *Lord's Nat., vol. ii., pp. 178-9, 255-7.* On the Arrow Lakes 'their form is also peculiar and very beautiful. These canoes run the rapids with more safety than those of any other shape.' *Kane's Wand., p. 328.* See *De Smet, Voy., pp. 35, 187; Irving's Astoria, p. 319; Lewis and Clarke's Trav., p. 375; Hector, in Palliser's Explor., p. 27; Stevens, in Ind. Aff. Rept., 1854, pp. 203, 214, 223, 228.*